

**In the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A welding stud comprising:  
a body having a first end and a second end, the first end having an outer diameter that is greater than an outer diameter of the second end;  
the first end constructed to engage a stud welding gun; ~~and~~  
the second end having a central point on a weld face and at least one ridge and hollow recess formed in the weld face and spaced away from the central point; and  
wherein the central point has a diameter greater than a thickness of the at least one ridge and has a planar surface that is in a common plane with the at least one ridge.
2. (Original) The welding stud of claim 1 wherein the recess is designed to decrease an effective arc area of the second end to a workpiece.
3. (Original) The welding stud of claim 1 further comprising one of a powdered metal encapsulated and a combination of flux and powdered metal encapsulated in the second end.
4. (Previously Presented) The welding stud of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of recesses, wherein the recesses are concentric about an axis of the weld face of the stud.
5. (Previously Presented) The welding stud of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of hollow recesses formed in the weld face, wherein the hollow recesses are annular grooves.
6. (Original) The welding stud of claim 1 further comprising a nipple extending from the second end at a center axis of the stud for initiating contact with a workpiece and defining a gap between the workpiece and the second end.
7. (Original) The welding stud of claim 1 wherein the first end has a flange extending outwardly to engage the stud welding gun.